

- ☐ Owner
- ☐ Accountant/Bkkr.
- ☐ Business Associate
- ☐ HRM Manager
- ☐ Office Manager
- ☐ Other

## Customers Win Desired Form Changes

The Tax Form (5208A), Wage Form (5208B) and Change Form (5208C) were upgraded using customer requests and staff suggestions. These changes do NOT affect your print specifications if you preprogrammed to print on our forms. The changes are outlined below:

### Tax Form (5208A)

- Boxes around ES Reference Number were darkened to emphasize the need to accurately complete.
- The No Payroll box is larger and copy was adjusted to avoid interference with scanners.
- A box now encloses items 9, 10 and 11 to emphasize their importance. Commas were added to help users put numbers in the right fields.
- The decimal boxes in Items 12 through 23 were adjusted for clarity.

### Wage Report (5208B)

- A new blank line is added for the UBI Number, replacing copy about photocopying the form.

The UBI number is not required, but it could help us process your report if your ES Reference Number is inaccurate.

- The ES Reference Number boxes are darkened to emphasize the need to accurately complete.
- The decimal boxes in Column 9 were adjusted for clarity.
- Added line to tally the total dollars on the page at customer request. Feel free to write the page numbering data **directly** below the dollar line.

### Change Form (5208C)

- Boxes around the ES Reference Number were darkened to emphasize the importance of completing this field correctly.

#### Helpful Hint:

PLEASE complete all Tax, Wage and Change forms in **black ink** using capital letters and with a **space between the last, first, and middle initial** in the name field on the wage report.

## Updated UIFastTax Released

UIFastTax Version 1.5 software is in the mail to current users AND newly registered users. By customer demand, Version 1.5 features these upgrades:

- None of your current data will be lost when you install the upgrade;
- Data imports are supported from more accounting packages; and
- Operating "glitches" are repaired.

As before, UIFastTax empowers users to file both tax and wage reports electronically. If you can export data from your current payroll system to a text file or Excel, it can be imported into UIFastTax! The software can be used to file an individual report or multiple reports for various business entities. Visit our website at [www.wa.gov/esd/tax](http://www.wa.gov/esd/tax) for more information. To order UIFastTax via email, send to [UITorders@esd.wa.gov](mailto:UITorders@esd.wa.gov) or call (360) 902-9716.

## OSI Develops New Prevention/Detection Pilot

The Office of Special Investigations is continually looking for ways to provide new and imaginative services to employers in an attempt to reduce Unemployment Insurance fraud. The department has started a new pilot program that compares the "New Hire" information that employers currently report to Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Child Support, to the benefit payment files of Employment Security Department (ESD). This exciting twist of partnering with another state

agency to audit benefit claims for improperly reported wages may prove to significantly reduce Unemployment Insurance fraud. This new program will identify incorrect work and earnings reports early in the claiming process, rather than several quarters later when the wage reports are received. As an employer, you can contribute to the success of this pilot by completing and returning any "New Hire" paperwork that you receive. Watch for future success stories on this "New Hire" pilot.

### *It's On The Net*

#### **Employment Security: The Right Connection**

**Visit Employment Security's  
Homepage at:  
[www.wa.gov/esd](http://www.wa.gov/esd)**

The News You Need To Know About  
Employment Security.

- Take a look at our special programs for business.
- Get important tax information.
- Improve your general knowledge about ES.
- Find out what's going on -- look at our current publications.
- All that is at hand merely by visiting Employment Security's Home Page.

### *The New Washington*

#### **Employer Help Line**

What's in it for me?

- File 'no payroll' quarterly tax reports.
- Obtain key data about your UI tax account.
- Have selected forms and/or publications faxed to you.
- Get help with formatting tax and wage reports or other problems related to electronic filing.
- Get help with your recruiting or place orders to file anticipated job openings.
- Access these and other services 24 hours a day, any day. Just dial:

(206) 340-1400 - Seattle  
(253) 305-0038 - Tacoma  
1-888-836-1900 - Toll Free

## Business Workshops Set for Spring 2000

Seven free Business Information Workshops are scheduled for April and May. Receive information on starting a business, hiring employees, and completing and filing quarterly reports for Employment Security, Labor and Industries and the Department of Revenue. Register beginning April 1st by contacting the Department of Revenue at 1-800-647-7706 or e-mail at [www.wa.gov/dol/bpd/workshop.htm](http://www.wa.gov/dol/bpd/workshop.htm). Interpreters for sight and hearing impaired people are available on request. Please call 360-586-5372 at least two weeks before the specific workshop to arrange for an interpreter.

The workshop schedule is:

- Apr. 17 Holiday Inn  
22218 - 84th Avenue S  
Kent
- Apr. 24 DSHS  
2121 S. State Street  
Room 406, Tacoma
- May 2 Shilo Inn  
Conference Room  
1819 E. Kittleson  
Moses Lake
- May 3 Columbia Basin College  
Workforce Training Ctr.  
2600 N. 20th  
Pasco
- May 5 Spokane Falls Community  
College, 3410 Fort Wright  
Drive Spokane
- May 16 Edmonds Community  
College  
Triton Union Building  
20000 - 68th Ave. W  
Edmonds
- May 23 Water Resources  
Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way  
Vancouver

## Work Opportunity Tax Credit Can Help You

Through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program, employers may obtain federal income tax credits for hiring a person(s) who is a member of one of the following target groups:

- **A welfare recipient** who has received benefits for at least 9 of the last 18 months;
- **A veteran** who has received food stamps for at least 3 months in the 15 months prior to the date of hire;
- **An ex-felon** who has been convicted or released from prison within one year of the date of hire AND is a member of a low-income family;
- **An 18-24 year old resident of a federally designated Enterprise Community;**
- **A disabled person who has been referred by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation** and has completed or is completing rehabilitative services from the State or the Veteran's Administration;
- **A 16-17 year-old resident of an Enterprise Community** hired as a summer Youth Employee;
- **An 18-24 year-old food stamp recipient** who has gotten food stamps for at least 6 consecutive months prior to the date of hire OR for at least 3 of the last 5 months AND their food stamp eligibility has expired;
- **A supplemental Security Income recipient** who has received benefits for any month in the 60-day period prior to the date of hire.

### Find out more:

If you need forms or would like more information, you can:

- **Have forms faxed to you** by calling 1-877-828-2050 from your touch-tone phone or fax machine and requesting #103 (IRS Form 8850) or #104 (ETA Form 9061).
- **Download forms and find out more** by visiting [www.doleta.gov/employer/wotc.htm](http://www.doleta.gov/employer/wotc.htm)
- **Contact the WOTC Unit** by calling 1-800-669-9271.

## Tax Rates Recalculated

SHB-3077 directed the department to recalculate the tax rates for year 2000. The recalculated tax rate notices were mailed with a flyer that explained some of the law changes. Two of the major affects due to the law change were: (1) the taxable wage base changed from \$26,500 to \$24,300; and (2) a change to the formula which determines the schedule caused a return to a lower schedule for 2000. The use of this schedule for year 2000 caused tax rates to lower for all employers except two categories. (Employers assigned tax rate class 20 and employers assigned the delinquency rate) Those who did not receive a copy of the flyer can access it at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/tax/trspecial.htm>. The main tax Internet page is located at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/tax/index.htm> and the tax rate schedule is located at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/taxrates.htm>

## Annual Northwest Employment Expo

The Annual Northwest Employment Expo, which is co-hosted by *The Northwest Workforce Development Council* and *Business Pulse Magazine*, was developed as a public/private partnership with the intent of providing a solution for employers and job seekers.

The Expo this year will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., on April 20, at the Best Western Lakeway Inn in Bellingham. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.employmentexpo2000.com](http://www.employmentexpo2000.com) or call (360) 671-3933.

"The primary restriction businesses are trying to deal with is the lack of available people to expand with," says Dick Fohn, partner of Moss Adams, a regional accounting and management consulting firm. "Most of them can deal with the physical plant. Most of them have the market and the product. But the biggest restriction is people."

Charlie Christensen, general manager of Bellis Fair mall in Bellingham, agrees that finding qualified people is a challenge in today's labor market. "It's been a problem for several of the companies we work with to hire enough quality people who stay for any length of time," he remarks.